



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2007

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**FORMER TEXAS ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMISSION TAX COMPLIANCE OFFICER
SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 51-year-old Diana Marquez, wife of Juarez-based drug trafficking organization leader Mario Alonso Marquez-Ramos and a former Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission tax compliance officer, was sentenced this morning to 30 years in federal prison for money laundering and conspiracy to import and possess with intent to distribute over 1,000 pounds of marijuana. In addition to her prison term, United States District Judge David Briones ordered that Marquez be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing her prison term.

"We honor public officials for their service and sacrifice. However when one of those officials betrays the people and joins forces with the drug traffickers it feels pretty good to send them to the slammer," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Marquez is the eighth defendant to be sentenced to federal prison for his/her role in this organization which over a two-year period, was responsible for importing and distributing to the upper mid-west, east and northeastern portions of the United States in excess of 48,000 kilograms of marijuana.

In September 2006, jurors found that Marquez: facilitated the organization's laundering of drug distribution proceeds; provided organization members with intelligence about enforcement actions at the ports of entry and other related information; found stash houses for the organization to use; and, performed accounting of drug proceeds.

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton commended the investigative efforts of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorneys Jose Luis Acosta and John Gibson are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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